

# **Emergency Sheltering of Household Pets and Service Animals**

A Virginia Perspective

# History

- Disaster Animal Care and Control Committee
- Hurricane Katrina
- Federal Legislation
- Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group
- State Legislation
- Pet Evacuation and Sheltering Task Force
- State Managed Shelters

# Disaster Animal Care and Control

- 2003 – 2006
- VFHS, DGIF, VDH, VACA, VVMA, VALVT, VDEM, DEQ, VCE, VMRCVM, VFBF, WCV, VHC, USDA/APHIS, HSUS, VDACS
- Plans for ALMOST all types of animal emergencies
- Advocated for a State Animal Response Team and County Animal Response Teams

# Hurricane Katrina

- Public awareness that some people will not leave their pets behind to seek a public shelter

# Federal Legislation

- PETS Act - "Standards for State and Local Emergency Preparedness Operational Plans .....such plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency."

# Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group

- Planning and Review Subcommittee

# Planning and Review Subcommittee

- MOU – VFHS, VVMA, VMRCVM, VDEM, VDACS
- Database for use in VEOC
- Training to staff VEOC

# State Legislation

- Senate Bill 787 - Department of Emergency Management "Develop an emergency response plan to address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals in the event of a disaster and assist and coordinate with local agencies in developing an emergency response plan for household pets and service animals."



# Pet Evacuation and Sheltering Task Force

- Led by VDEM
- Drafted a COV plan

# State Managed Shelters

- Site Evaluations
- Site Specific Plans/Concept of Operations
- Next
  - Staffing
  - Equipment
  - Supplies
  - Funding
  - Transportation

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# Current Status

- Commonwealth of Virginia Plan
- Prepared to assist local sheltering
- Facilities identified for state sheltering